

## Message Text

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ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 IO-03 SSO-00 INR-05

INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 OES-02 SAM-01 EB-03

SP-02 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 /055 W

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O R 271650Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9218

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1196

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, WMO, S, VS, VN, 85

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON LAW OF  
WAR AND AT SEVENTH WMO CONGRESS

REF: (A) STATE 17443; (B) ROME 897; (C) ROME 908

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED THIS MORNING (JAN 27) ON SECRETARY GENERAL  
GAJA, ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO REVIEW SUBJECT PRG ISSUE,  
URGE ITALIAN SUPPORT, AND CONVEY MESSAGE REF (A) THAT GOI CAN  
SAFELY EXPECT GOOD EC COMPANY IN SUPPORT OF USG POSITION,  
THAT USG CONSIDERS ITALIAN SUPPORT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND THAT  
USG WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING A SECOND ITALIAN ABSTENTION  
ON PRG ISSUE AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA ASSURED AMBASSADOR OF ITALIAN SUPPORT  
ON PROCEDURAL ISSUE, STATING THAT ITALIANS "WILL DO OUR BEST" TO  
INSURE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE WILL REQUIRE TWO/THIRDS VOTE. GAJA  
SAID THAT THE GOI FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE AT THE PRESENT  
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MOMENT, TO AVOID HAVING THE PRG PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA AT THE LAW

OF WAR CONFERENCE. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE, HOWEVER, WHILE UNDER-STANDING OUR POSITION GAJA SAID THAT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE DECIDED BY MINISTER RUMOR.

3. GAJA EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND OF THE PREVIOUS ITALIAN ABSTENTION (REFTEL B, PARA 2) AND POINTED OUT THAT THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY IS UNDER CONTINUING PRESSURE FROM THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY LEFT-WING OPPOSITION, TO UP-GRADE ITALIAN TREATMENT OF THE PRG. THE GOI UNDERSTANDS FULLY THE REASONS WHY THE PRG CANNOT BE GIVEN TREATMENT AS A GOVERNMENT, AS IT HAS NONE OF THE ATTRIBUTES THEREOF. HOWEVER, THE PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION IN ITALY AND THE DEPENDENCE OF THE FOURTH MORO GOVERNMENT ON SOCIALISTS (PSI) VOTES TO MAINTAIN ITS MAJORITY MUST BE CONSIDERED IN ANY DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE PRG.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE POSTAL BALLOT CONCERNING POSSIBLE INVITATION TO THE PRG TO ATTEND THE SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE WMO, GAJA SAID THAT THE ITALIANS WILL OPPOSE ANY SUCH INVITATION.

5. COMMENT: WE CAN ASSUME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO REVERSE THE DECISION TAKEN LAST YEAR BY HIS PREDECESSOR AS FOREIGN MINISTER, AND PRESENT PRIME MINISTER, ALDO MORO. WE CANNOT BE SANGUINE THAT THE ITALIANS MIGHT OPPOSE PRG PARTICIPATION IN THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE IN THE EVENT THAT THE SUBSTANCE COMES TO A VOTE. AT THE SAME TIME WE BELIEVE THAT THE ITALIANS WILL VERY MUCH WISH TO AVOID THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE AND WILL THEREFORE DO THEIR BEST, AS GAJA PROMISED, TO SEE THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE DOES NOT ARISE. VOLPE

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